

## ABSTRACT

Human- and mouse-derived bHLH type transcription factors were isolated. These transcription factors shared homology with the transcription factor DEC1, the expression of which is induced in human cartilage cells when differentiated with cAMP. Thus, these isolated transcription factors are thought to be novel transcription factors belonging to the DEC1 subfamily. The transcription factors of the present invention are also homologous to mouse Stra13 and rat SHARP that are related to neurocyte differentiation. The transcription factors of the present invention may be used as tools for developing pharmaceutical agents for diseases related to the differentiation and proliferation of cells.

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